

4 Barrett Farm Road Trails



Trail Guide

Walking time: 30 to 60 minutes

Parking: unstructured

Ideal for: children, dog walkers, experience mountain bikers, hikers, and bird watchers

This maintained path is somewhat off the beaten path, but well worth finding and exploring. Enjoyed on its own, or as an extension of the Sanford Farm West loop, these pathways, cut into the scrub oak, bay berry and native grasslands, can be walked several different ways without taking the same exact route each time. From the parking area, walk south west toward the ocean, or along Barrett Farm Road for a bit and then explore a pathway to the left or right. Once open farm land, this portion of the island features relatively young growth trees and grasslands. Deer abound here thanks to the nearby source of water and ample cover (and, in season, so do deer hunters, so take precautions). The terrain, for the most part, is smooth and flat and easy to traverse on foot or on a mountain bike. There's very little shade, which means a hat and sunscreen is a must, even in the Fall and Winter. And if you follow the dirt roads and trails to the ocean, one of the Nantucket's nicest, undeveloped, high surf beaches awaits.

Directions: From town, drive west on the Madaket Road past the Conservation Foundation's parking area for Sanford Farm and take a left onto Barrett Farm Road. From there, take this dirt road approximately ¼ mile to a Land Bank marker on your left, which marks the southern end of the Sanford Farm West property. Pull off into the parking area to the left.

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Enjoying Nantucket Safely

The Nantucket Land Bank accepts no liability due to injury resulting from use of this map or its properties. In other words, you use these trails and recreational areas at your own risk. Follow these tips in order to ensure your use of Land Bank properties is safe and enjoyable:

Dress Appropriately

On trails, wear hiking shoes or boots. In the summer, employ light clothing that provides protection from the sun. In the winter, multiple layers that wick moisture will keep you warm and dry.

Check for Ticks

Nantucket has one of the highest rates of tick-borne diseases in the world. So follow these simple tips. Stay on the trail and avoid tall grasses, shrubs and hanging branches. Wear boots with socks and long pants when possible (tucking your pants into your socks may look geeky, but it will keep ticks from reaching your skin.) Check your family for ticks daily. Be advised that a deer tick nymph is often only the size of a crumb.

Avoid Poison Ivy

Learn to identify and avoid the three shiny leaves and white berries associated with poison ivy. It is one of the most pervasive plants on Nantucket, found near beaches, on wooded trails, near wetlands and moors.

Use Sunscreen

Wear sunscreen and protective clothing to keep from being burned by the powerful summer sun. Some Land Bank trails are rather long and provide little shade, so plan accordingly.

Hydrate Properly

It's often surprising how quickly one can become dehydrated when walking in the moors or on the beach. So bring water with you and drink often.

Hunting Season

Most Land Bank properties are open to hunting in season. Hikers are encouraged to wear bright clothing and keep pets on a leash. The best time to enjoy Land Bank properties during hunting season is on Sundays when hunting is not allowed. Hikers are asked to report any hunting remains that are not properly disposed of to the Land Bank office.

Vehicle Access

Please note that not all of the dirt roads and passable trails are maintained on a regular basis and some may only be traversable with four-wheel drive vehicles. Even with four-wheel drive, you may need to reduce tire pressure on particularly sandy patches. A sticker is required for driving on beaches.

Cell Phones

Bring a cell phone in case you get lost.

Pack In, Pack Out

In most cases, there are no trash receptacles provided at these properties, so please help keep our beaches clean by taking everything that you brought to the beach with you when you leave.

Pet Owners

Keeping our properties and beaches clean by cleaning up after your pet is greatly appreciated.